Don’t Order Multiple Serological Investigations Without a Clinical Indication for Infections

Despite its longstanding role in revealing individual immunity, serology, the analysis of blood serum for pathogen-specific antibodies, remains a largely untapped potential for understanding the burden of infectious diseases in human. Serological tests can potentially be misused leading to unnecessary cost and avoidable stress. Judicious use of serological tests is important in delivering appropriate care for pediatric patients.

It's important to understand the following:

I. **Reduced Costs:** Unnecessary tests add to healthcare costs, both for the patient and the healthcare system.
II. **Less is More:** Multiple tests can lead to false positive results, causing unnecessary worry and prompting additional irrelevant investigations.
III. **Targeted Approach:** Focusing on tests with a clear clinical indication helps identify the cause of infection more effectively.

Accordingly, a barrage of blood tests including serology might not be helpful. Doctors should take a focused approach based on the patient's medical history and specific symptoms.

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